

THE DAILY HERALD

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THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

ALFRED HARMSWORTH, the great English newspaper publisher, gives an interesting review of the newspaper future in the North American Review, and an extract was published in yesterday's Herald. Mr. Harmsworth is impressed by the growing power of the press as a direct influence in public affairs. Doubtless he has in mind the peculiar situation in Great Britain. Lord Salisbury has found it possible to ignore all the great London newspapers in his conduct of the administration, and has frequently taken pleasure in defying editorial opinion even when it came from the once omnipotent Times. Disraeli, who was Salisbury's preceptor, followed the other course and utilized the newspapers continually. Gladstone's constituency, the liberal element, compelled him to keep in touch with the press, but since his death the governing powers have been above and beyond reach of criticism or even suggestion. This anomaly must be due, largely, to the circumstances of the moment. From Pitt and Palmerston down, no English premier has ever had any difficulty in overruling the opposition so long as a foreign war in progress. The public conscience will have no debate when a fight is on. It is with the administration, good or bad, until the war is over.

But the swing of the pendulum invariably comes back. When Salisbury sees the tide ebbing, as he will, the opinion of the press will recover its weight, though possibly it will never be as potent as it was when men let their newspapers do much of their thinking for them. The confusion of education inevitably leads to greater independence of thought, and that is the reason for the growing demand for newspapers which shall present the facts as clearly and truthfully as possible, commenting on them fairly and without partisan bias.

THE SALT CURE.

TWO CHICAGO SCIENTISTS have found a new use for salt. They claim that it is the salt in the blood that causes the heart to beat. They go still further, and aver their belief that by the skillful use of salt a lifeless blood pump can be made to jump and cavort about in the human breast with all the buoyancy of a spring lambkin.

There always has been a popular belief in a mysterious potency in salt. A pinch of it on a bird's tail, it is generally believed by the younger generation, is a talisman that will insure the capture of any fowl of the air. The overturning of a salt cellar has often sent superstitious hearts to beating wildly with fearful forebodings that nothing short of throwing a noisety over the left shoulder would allay. Young people with a tendency for saying and doing silly things are to this day spoken of as "fresh," which is nothing more than a vulgar way of saying that they have too little salt in their blood.

The discovery of the Chicago scientists is, therefore, not as astonishing as might at first glance appear. In fact, there has of late been going on among certain of our public men strange disturbances that can be accounted for only on the theory that they have been putting salt on their hearts. What but some such mighty agent could have waked to ecstasies of regeneration the dead political blood pump of Grover Cleveland? When the silent, fishy heart of Marcus Aurelius Hanna bursts into a glowing prose Carol on Christmas and Christianity, we must either have recourse to the salt elixir theory or give up probing for the cause. The regularity with which Mr. Harper has been able to draw million-dollar contributions for the University of Chicago from John D. Rockefeller has long been an enigma to every one. Now the solution is apparent. Mr. Harper has simply managed to get close enough to the Standard Oil magnate to throw salt on the tail of his heart.

Many other instances might be mentioned where salt has been used to revive dead hearts, but these will suffice. Now that the theory has been made public, its benefits will be many and far-reaching. Despairing lovers and old maids will cease to exist. Hearts that will not beat to the tune of fond words and soul-seek glances will throb like riveting machines on a diet of salted almonds and pretzels. Codfish and old pickles will soon have all the obdurate parents in the land crying "God bless you, my children." The elected candidate with the list of jobs at his disposal will be as warm-hearted and generous as in the early days of the campaign. An extra supply of salt in the breakfast oatmeal and sealskin jackets and new hennets will rush from husbands as freely as water from the hydrant. In fact, it begins to look as though the millennium were at hand, when every day will be Christmas.

UNCLE MARK'S CHRISTMAS.

EVEN MARK HANNA'S enemies will join him in his praise of the Salvation Army. Your Uncle Marcus dropped politics and the ship subsidy on Christmas long enough to make a speech at the Salvation dinner. One can picture the good cheer that must have radiated from that bland, round countenance, the expression of benignity that fairly oozed from his eyes, the thoughts of past triumphs and others still hoped for that lent unctious to his language.

But it's an even bet Mark wished in his inmost soul that the \$100,000,000 steel for the Standard Oil ships came as easy as that Christmas speech.

If those Chicago doctors want to prove the power of salt to stir the human heart, they might try it on Mr. Russell Sage. Success with him would convince the most skeptical.

Here's a real joke: The Armenians have appealed to McKinley to save them from extermination. Apparently the Armenians have not read the casualty reports from Manila.

The queen's age and the fact that her Christmas dinner always consists of a 200-pound roast of beef, looks like something of a serious jolt to the vegetarian theory.

Probably Cleveland's opposition to the ship subsidy bill may be accounted for by the fact that it offers no encouragement to the duck ship industry.

If you notice a person with a sheepish look hurrying out of a store it is safe to say he or she has been finding how much a Christmas present cost.

Louisville, Ky., celebrated Christmas by exploding firecrackers. This is probably as mild a form of peace as Kentucky could possibly tolerate.

Christmas is safe; Mark Hanna has endorsed it.

SOCIETY NEWS.

The regular monthly meeting of the Salt Lake section of the Council of Jewish Women was held yesterday at the O. B. E. hall. The programme was as follows: Prayer, "How Can Obedience Be Obtained in Children," (chain discussion), Mrs. Theresa Simon. Paper, "Advantages of Reform," Mrs. Moore. Current events; Mrs. Simon Bamberger.

Miss Jennie Irvine left yesterday for Denver, where she will visit friends.

C. D. Rookledge goes to California today with the intention of making his home there.

An old time Swedish Christmas party was given at the home of Carl Hedelund, rear of 828 South Fifth street yesterday afternoon and last evening. All sorts of Swedish games were engaged in and a delicious spread was a feature of the enjoyable evening.

Mrs. Morris Sommer and Master Armande Sommer will leave today on the Rio Grande Western for Denver, where they will make a short visit to the parents of Mrs. Sommer.

The University gave the second of a series of dances last evening at Christensen's. The hall was very effectively decorated with Christmas green and blue bunting, and the party was chaperoned by Mrs. Robert Roberts, Mrs. W. A. Nelson and Mrs. Hoyt Sherman. Those present were: The Misses Kirkpatrick, Lucille Jennings, Florence Terhune, Ellerbe, Wells, Knickel, Blanch, Thomas, Latta, Squires, Watson, Murphy, Carter, Mathis and James; Messrs. Lewis, Ray, Ziegler, Mathis, Foster, Will Foster, Mackintosh, Havell, Riddess, Arthur L. Thompson, Jr., Horv, Colbath, Kerr, Kimball, Webber, Groesbeck, Cross, Sadler, Ferris, Dinwoody, Knickelbocker, Eldridge, Hemphill, Thorne, Colton, McKellar, Grov, Gardiner, Burke, St. Claire, L. E. Riter and Moffat.

AMUSEMENTS.

"Human Hearts." Hal Reid's story of the Arkansas hills, opens a three-night's engagement at the Grand this evening. The advance sale yesterday was gratifying to Manager Mayrey and the probabilities are he will retire from the house with another and last successful attraction to his credit. "Human Hearts" is after the same style as "Shore Acres" and other plays in which the American plain people are the interesting characters. It is in its fourth and most successful season.

Director Coleman is working like a Trojan with the Salt Lake orchestras for their second concert at the Grand on Jan. 2. The concert follows the appearance of the Yale Glee club and orchestra at the Congregational church, and a good deal of interest attaches to comparisons that will doubtless be made between the traveling organization and local talent. The concert was to have been a repetition of the first one, but a number of new features have been added to the programme, which will greatly strengthen it, even though the original performance was magnificent.

The organ recital by Organist McClellan at the tabernacle yesterday forenoon was attended by an enthusiastic audience of about 300. Mr. McClellan has decided to change the hour of Saturday performances back to 11 a. m., this hour being more popular than 1 p. m. Following is the splendid programme recited yesterday: "Pilgrim's Chorus" ("Tannhauser") Wagner; "Andante".....Guilmant; "Spring Song".....Mendelssohn; "Andantino".....Lemare; "Gavotte" ("Mignon").....Thomas; "Elsa's Dream" ("Lohengrin").....Schubert; "Funeral March".....Chopin; "Litanies".....Schubert.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 26.—Della Fox, the actress, was married today to John Levy of New York. Rev. William M. Way, pastor of the Unitarian Reformed church, performed the ceremony. It is announced that after the completion of her engagement and a week in this city, Mrs. Levy will retire to the vaudeville stage, with the intention of returning shortly to comic opera. The marriage license, which was issued today, gives the age of Miss Fox at 25 years, single, and a resident of New York, while Mr. Levy said he was 45, lived in New York and had no relatives.

MR. BRIGHAM'S NEW LECTURE.

To the Editor of The Salt Lake Herald: Kindly give me space to write briefly concerning the lecture on "Utah and the Mormon Commonwealth," which I now have in preparation. People who have seen the wonderful realistic views in color shown in the lecture on the "Grand Canyon" can form an adequate idea of how strikingly beautiful can be made the prominent scenes of Utah. Of necessity these latter must lack the grandeur of the Grand Canyon, but I beg to submit that no state in the Union presents a greater variety and picturesque of scenery than our own Utah. I sincerely desire suggestions from citizens generally concerning the choice of prominent features of Utah scenery to be presented.

From the present temper of congress it would seem as if a national scheme of irrigation (which alone will be comprehensive and enduring) is not soon to prevail. The Atlantic states seem to have little conception of the wonderful results to be obtained from irrigation. I propose in this lecture to take up specifically the subject of irrigation in Utah, inasmuch as here has been given the earliest Anglo-Saxon exemplification of the enduring results of irrigation. This lecture will be beautifully illustrated with stereoscopic views in color, and will be delivered in the middle west and east, where nothing short of a demonstration will excite the citizens to the magnitude

and importance of a national scheme of irrigation. N. M. BRIGHAM. Salt Lake City, Dec. 26.

WIDOW OF MAYNE REID IN DESITUTE CIRCUMSTANCES

(New York Post.) Mayne Reid's widow has been discovered starving in London. That is the way the world gets away from its old-time idols and those who loved and cherished them. Mayne Reid's grave is in Kensal Green cemetery, where it is an irregular oval of white marble, on which is carved a sword and pen crossing each other, and these words from "The Scap Hunters":

"This is the wood urarie, it is misnamed, it is the garden of God."

Although foreign born, Mayne Reid in many respects belonged to the United States. He fought and was wounded in the Mexican war, and most of his best stories are founded upon American life. He wrote of the frontier and the sea. His wife was his constant literary companion, and what was a wife, his friend. Who will forget the funny story in which Reid was supposed to be dying in a New York hospital, and his wife, who had been nursing him, was told to tell him he was going to die. "I'm not going to die," he said, "I'm not going to die. Bring me a beefsteak." And here he died for a decade afterward.

Captain Reid first met his wife when she was 13 years old and married her before she was 20, although he was much her senior. It was a love match in all meanings of the term. He wrote much of her in his book, "The Child-White." It is she to whom poverty and want have come in the years since his death. It was hard for Americans who have loved the dashing literary works of Mayne Reid to appreciate this. What American has not thrilled over his lines, written with the United States army in Mexico, and just before he was wounded?

"We were not many—few who pressed Beside the brave who fell that day; But who of us has not confessed He'd rather share the warrior's rest Than not have been at Monterey?"

There were other lines, too, which Reid wrote which cannot be forgotten. Some of these are in "Mac-o-Chee Adieu":

"Faded from my sight the valley sweet, The brown, old, lonesome mill, The willows, where the wild birds keep Song watch beside the rill; The cottage with its rustic porch, Where the latest flower blooms, And autumn, with her flaming torch, The dying year illumines."

Some one told Reid in his early days that Lord Byron was then the greatest of living poets. The doughty captain's reply was:

"You're a damned discriminating fellow. He lived life to the full—soldier, cowboy, actor, author, farmer, friend of Edgar Allan Poe of Kossuth, of the men who lived too all that were living and died with eyes set toward the dark river, not looking back. What a mother England will do for Mayne Reid, the 'Elgar' of this man's life, is not known in death, she became the beautiful, and her married life was one of those dreams often written about and perhaps often experienced."

Barnato Missed a Rare Gem.

"It is the custom," said H. A. Stander, Cape Town, South Africa, at the Hotel Victoria yesterday, "each year to sell the output of the Kimberley fields to the highest bidder. The diamonds are sold at so much a carat, without reference to the size of the stones, although stones below a certain weight are not in the auction. Obviously, the larger the stones found the better it is for the purchaser, for the smaller the diamonds the more numerous with each carat. This led to a most extraordinary occurrence. Barney Barnato had the fields one year, but Alfred Beit outbid him and got them for the year following. The first blast freed under the Beit management disclosed the largest diamond ever found. It weighed over 300 carats in the rough, and its value is simply incalculable. Alfred Beit had fired one more blast before his lease was up, the diamond would have become his. As it was, however, it became the property of Alfred Beit. It is said that the shah of Persia is now negotiating for its purchase. If he does it he'll have put a mortgage on a good slice of his empire to pay for it. That one diamond was worth more than the entire yield from the fields for the previous year."

Oscar Wilde's Last Bon Mot.

(Kansas City Star.) Oscar Wilde's last bon mot was characteristic of his genius for inversion. This ruling readiness was still strong up to the time of his death. When told that he must have an operation he said at first that he could not afford the fee. The point was pressed by the surgeon, "Well," said the patient, with a flash of his old spirit, "I must die before my means."

A There Are Others.

(Washington Times.) Is it worth while to surrender our free hand in the Western hemisphere to the concert of Europe, merely that Mr. John Hay may save his face, and be able to perform some of his promises to Great Britain?

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Bids must be filed with the City Recorder not later than three o'clock p. m. on Saturday, the 26th day of December, 1900.

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